

DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY, AND PETITION

We, Leon Wong, Sudhanshu Aggarwal, and Peter Beebee, declare: that we are citizens of Canada, Canada, and the United States of America, the United States of America, respectively; that our residences and post office addresses are 18010 NE 94<sup>th</sup> Ct., Apt. 3, Redmond, Washington 98052, 855 168<sup>th</sup> Place SE, Bellevue, Washington 98008, and 11 Longmeadow Way, Acton, Massachusetts 01720, respectively; that we verily believe we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject matter of the invention or discovery entitled "METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR SELECTING CRITERIA FOR A SUCCESSFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT MESSAGE IN INSTANT MESSAGING," for which a patent is sought and which is described and claimed in the specification attached hereto; and that we acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Section 1.56(a) of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

We declare further that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.



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We hereby appoint as our attorneys and/or patent agents:  
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE  
and DANIEL D. CROUSE, Registration No. 32,022; and KATIE SAKO, Registration No. 32,628,  
of MICROSOFT CORPORATION, One Microsoft Way, Redmond, Washington 98052, with full

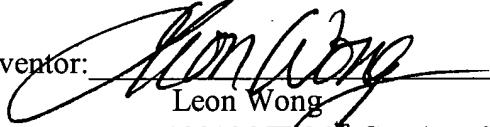
power to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. All correspondence and telephonic communications should be directed to:

Rick D. Nydegger  
WORKMAN, NYDEGGER & SEELEY  
1000 Eagle Gate Tower  
60 East South Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Wherefore, we pray that Letters Patent be granted to us for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

Signed at Redmond, Washington this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2000.

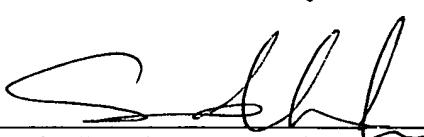
Inventor:

  
Leon Wong  
18010 NE 94<sup>th</sup> Ct., Apt. 3  
Redmond Washington 98052

Wherefore, we pray that Letters Patent be granted to us for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

Signed at Bellevue, Washington on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2000.

Inventor:

  
Sudhanshu Aggarwal  
855 168<sup>th</sup> Place SE  
Bellevue, Washington 98008

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Wherefore, we pray that Letters Patent be granted to us for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

Signed at Acton, MA this 28 day of July, 2000.

Inventor: Peter Beebe  
Peter Beebe  
11 Longmeadow Way  
Acton, Massachusetts 01720

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